



Iowa CREP Nitrate Removal Wetlands



CREP Maintenance Information

Buffer

Native grasses must be clipped with about a 6 to 8 inch stubble at least twice, and preferably three times, during each of the first two establishment years. Introduced grasses and legumes should also be mowed at least twice during the first year. Chopper type mowers are preferred over sickle type mowers.

After permanent cover has been established; spot spraying, mowing, or burning needed to control noxious weeds and/or to maintain the approved cover shall be prior to May 15th or after August 1st. If mowing or spraying needs to be done between May 15th and August 1st, FSA County Committee must approve this spot spraying, mowing, or burning in advance.

The occasional turning on or crossing of buffer area to complete necessary maintenance is allowed. However, these areas cannot be used as travel lanes or roads.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wetland

Stop-logs shall be placed in the water level control near the end of construction to a level within 1-2 feet of the design pool elevation. Upon vegetation establishment on the berm, the remaining stop-logs shall be placed in the water level control structure to bring the wetland up to the water level specified in the wetland design plan. This water level shall be maintained unless directed otherwise.

Upon recommendation by IDALS-DSC or its designees, if the wetland pool area less than three feet deep becomes devoid of vegetation after initial establishment, the water level in the wetland shall be lowered for vegetation re-establishment. The period of this drawdown shall be as needed to re-establish the vegetation and shall not exceed one year.

Water level manipulation will be done in such a manner as to not infringe upon the vested drainage rights of upstream or downstream landowners. IDALS-DSC must be made aware of any manipulations in water level prior to their occurrence.

Structure

All structures need maintenance for satisfactory operation and to prolong their life. Owners should inspect structures at least once annually and at other opportune times. The embankment should be kept well vegetated, clear of trees and brush, and free of surface erosion.

What to check?

- Destructive action of burrowing rodents under/around the structure and through adjacent embankments
- Debris or obstructions at the outlet such as beaver dams
- Structure seeding condition
- Erosion or deterioration following heavy rainfall events
- Water level control structure is functioning properly
- Conditions that appear abnormal from original construction

IDALS-DSC or its designees may enter the contract/easement area to inspect and monitor the wetland.